

REMARKS

Claims 4-17 are now present in this application.

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wilson, U.S. Patent 7,099,688. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that claims 1-3 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. This change has been made without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 4-17 to be allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application should now fully be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

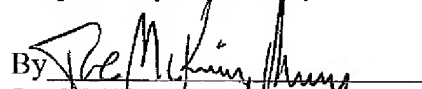
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This Amendment should overcome the current grounds of rejection and therefore simplify the issues for Appeal. Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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